

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 196191

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ORIGIN NEA-10

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY JIDDA
INFO AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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EMBASSY PASS USREP/JECOR

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, EWWT, SA

SUBJECT: COAST GUARD SURVEY OF SAUDI COAST GUARD

REF: (A) USREP 0669 JULY 14, 1976, (B) STATE 08632 (NOTAL)
(C) JIDDA 5354

1. DEPARTMENT AND TREASURY HAVE CONSIDERED SUGGESTION THAT
COAST GUARD SURVEY BE FUNDED THROUGH JEC, BUT BELIEVE THIS
WOULD BE INAPPROPRIATE MECHANISM IN THIS CASE. PREFERABLE
MECHANISM IS THAT SAG PROVIDE PAYMENT DIRECT TO U.S. COAST
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PAGE 02 STATE 196191

GUARD. USCG IS INITIATING A REQUEST THAT IT BE

AUTHORIZED UNDER SECTION 607 (A) OF THE FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961 TO FURNISH THE REQUESTED SERVICES. UPON COMPLETION OF THIS DETERMINATION (EXPECTED TO REQUIRE PERHAPS THREE WEEKS), USCG WILL BE AUTHORIZED TO ACCEPT FUNDS DIRECTLY.

2. AS INTERIM STEP, EMBASSY MAY INDICATE THAT APPROVAL OF SAG REQUEST IS EXPECTED SHORTLY, BUT SHOULD NOTE THAT SINCE ESTIMATED DOLS. 125,000 COST OF SURVEY WAS DETERMINED IN LATE 1975, THIS FIGURE MUST BE REVIEWED TO REFLECT INCREASED PER DIEM RATES, INCREASED INTERNATIONAL AIR TRAVEL, ETC. NEW ESTIMATE WILL BE PROVIDED SHORTLY. IN DISCUSSING ESTIMATE, EMBASSY SHOULD INSURE POINTS MADE

PARA 2 AND 4 REF B ARE UNDERSTOOD BY SAUDIS.

3. USCG SEES JANUARY 1977 AS EARLIEST PRACTICAL DATE UPON WHICH TEAM COULD ARRIVE IN SAUDI ARABIA. (FYI, USCG IS AT PRESENT ASSEMBLING TEAM TO DEPART FOR JORDAN IN OCTOBER. BELIEVE SAUDI INTERESTS WOULD NOT BE SERVED BY ATTEMPTING TO RUSH RECRUITMENT OF WELL-QUALIFIED TEAM). IN DISCUSSING MATTER WITH SAUDIS, EMBASSY SHOULD NOTE THAT TEAM WILL FOCUS ON MARITIME RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE ORGANIZATION, AS OPPOSED TO FRONTIER FORCE ELEMENTS.

4. AMBASSADOR SHOULD WITHHOLD FORMAL RESPONSE TO AL ASH-SHAYKH'S REQUEST UNTIL COMPLETION OF 607 DETERMINATION. USREP/JECOR DIRECTOR SHOULD INFORM DR. AL-TURKI OF SUBSTANCE OF PARA ONE, NOTING THAT DISCUSSIONS OF COAST GUARD SURVEY HAVE BEEN CARRIED OUT BETWEEN EMBASSY AND SAG COAST GUARD OVER PRECEDING YEAR AND A HALF, AND THAT SINCE USCG WILL BE PERFORMING SURVEY OUTSIDE OF AUSPICES OF JEC WE BELIEVE IT PREFERABLE THAT FUNDS BE PUT DIRECTLY IN USCG HANDS. HABIB

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